

# Welcome to the Sage PLUS Program and Our Role in the Changing World of Medicare



# Sage PLUS Program

- **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (Federally known as the “SHIP”)**
- **Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services administered by the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging**
- **Program has been funded since 1992**
- **Volunteer based program with trained peer counselors in the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Honolulu**
- **We provide information and assistance regarding health insurance issues for those with Medicare and Medicaid**

# Sage PLUS

- What does Sage PLUS stand for?

- **Sage** = Wise Person

- **P** = People

- **L** = Learning

- **U** = Understanding

- **S** = System

- **Sage PLUS is....**

Hawaii's – State Health Insurance Assistance Program for people with Medicare, Medicaid, family members, caregivers and soon to be retirees who need information and assistance with health insurance issues

# Sage PLUS Program Goals

- Trained volunteer counselors in each county and especially in the rural areas
- Bilingual counselors available
- Toll-free hotline with response time of two working days or less
- Community coalitions for easy access for the consumer

# Program

- Information and Assistance about benefits, options and rights and protections for a person with Medicare
- Community Presentations
- Partner Training
- Partner/Community Committees
- Face to face and phone counseling
- Community Referrals
- Medicare Publications
- Advocacy through appeals process
- Enrollment Activities with Medicare Part D

# 2005 Program Highlights

- 5,095 Calls received on the Sage PLUS Hotline
- Provided 169 Community Presentations
- Participation in 58 Health Fairs Statewide
- 61 Professional/Advocate Trainings
- Trained 9 new volunteers
- Volunteer hours
- 59 Volunteer Trainings



# Medicare Part D Coalition

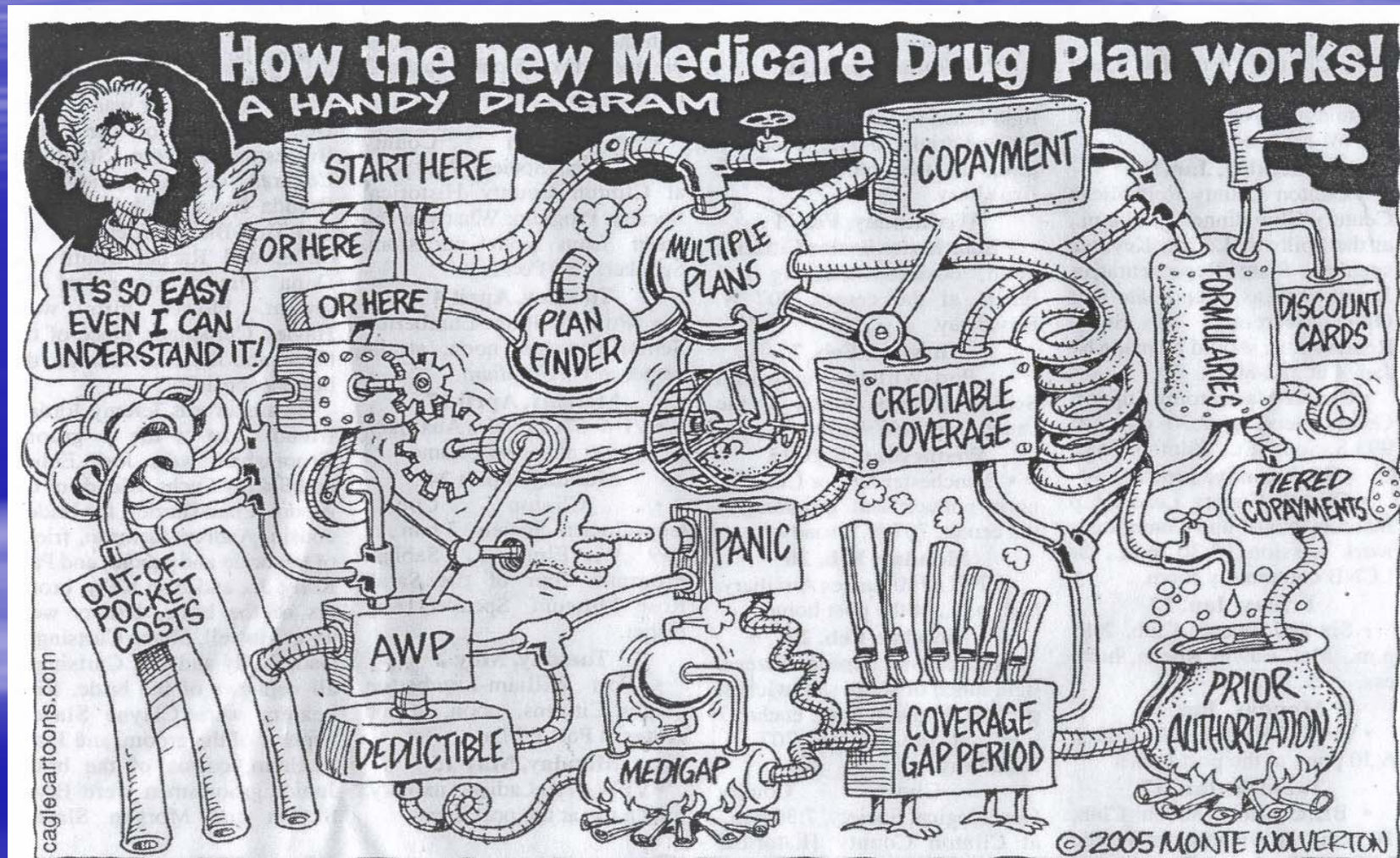
## October 2004





# Medicare Part D Coalition

## January 2006





# Medicare Part D Coalition

- Coalition formally convened in Oct 2004
- Representatives from
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - Social Security Administration
  - Department of Human Services Med-Quest Division
  - Department of Health
    - Executive Office on Aging
    - Office of Health Care Assurance

Sage PLUS Program  
Hawaii  
State Health Insurance  
Assistance Program (SHIP)

1-888-875-9229 (toll-free)  
1-808-586-7299